THE

Theatrical Observer

AND

Daily Bills of the Play.

"Nothing extenuate nor set down aught in malice."

No. 501 Wednesday, July 2, 1823. Price 1d.

HAY-MARKET.

THE Comedy of *The Rivals*, was acted here last night with excellent effect. Mr. TERRY's *Sir Anthony Absolute*, was well done. Mr. VINING played *Captain Absolute* very pleasantly. Mr. COOPER, as *Faulkland*, ably marked the peculiarities of the character. Mr. LISTON, as *Bob Acres*, of course, kept the house in a roar of laughter. Miss CHESTER was the *Lydia Languish*, and made a very charming one. Of MRS. CHATTERLEY's *Julia*, we will say, it shewed the manners of the lady, with the feelings of refined sensibility.

In the Farce of *Killing no Murder*, that distinguished favorite, Mr. HARLEY, made his *debut* here as *Buskin*, and was received with a hearty welcome. He and Mr. LISTON, as *Apollo Belvi*, created infinite merriment.—There was a crowded house.

Mrs. GIBBS, we are happy to see, is engaged here.

ENGLISH OPERA HOUSE.

THIS Theatre opened last night for the season. It has undergone new and splendid decorations; and the gas lamps round the boxes are superseded by elegant cut-glass chandeliers, and the seats throughout the pit and boxes have been cushioned, which makes them very comfortable. We have only to remark, that the drapery over the dress-boxes, is of too formal a cut, and that by being reduced in depth, and made more wavy, and the tassels removed, it would be more in accordance with good taste. The house, however, altogether looks very elegant and cheerful.

On the raising of the curtain, '*God save the King*,' was sung by the whole Company. After which a new Melo-drame was produced, under the title of '*The Swing Bridge*,' the story of which. is soon told. The *Baron of Uckfeld*, has a charming and virtuous wife, of whom he has been made jealous by the art of a villain named *Seward*. This man having an affection for *Selina*, the sister of the *Baroness*, who is beloved by *Henri*. *D'Holberg*, her cousin, determins to ruin his rival and revenge himself on the Baroness for favoring *Henri's* suit to *Selina*, by contriving to make the *Baron* think that the youth is beloved by his wife. He succeeds so far that the *Baron* resolves to destroy *Henri*, and commands *Rudalf*, a worthy old adjutant, to re-

move the bolts of a *Swing Bridge* that crosses a dreadful ravine, and over which he knows *Henri* is to pass at a certain hour. It happens, however, that *Ensign Casimer Blumm*, a youth fond of *'surprising'* people, puts forward the clock an hour, and *Seward* deeming that his victim has been already destroyed, sets out to attend the Baroness across the same ravine, and on reaching one end of the bridge his weight preponderates it, and he is cast into the gulph he had intended *Henri* to perish in. The *Baron*, of course, is soon undeceived as to *Henri's* affections and his wife's honour, and the Piece terminates with happiness to all parties. This Melo-drame has some pleasing music, by Mr. Reeve. The interest is not intense, but the Plot is carried on with tolerable effect. The acting and singing were excellent; and the audience received the Piece with some favor. It is from the French.

In the laughable Farce of *Gretna Green*, Miss Kelly and Mr. Wrench, were received with great applause, and kept up the humor of the Piece admirably.

In *The Poor Soldier* we had two very successful *debuts*—Miss Grenville, as *Patrick*, and Mr W. Chapman, as *Darby*. The young lady was most warmly and justly encored in *'My Friend and Pitcher,'* Her success was complete: and we may say the same of Mr. Chapman, who is an excellent low Comedian; but let him trust boldly to his own conception of humor, without deviating into any other person's style. The whole performances gave such pleasure, that we only regret want of space to name every performer who conduced to the general effect.

The house in the course of the Evening was quite full.

The GRAND SPANISH FETE at COVENT GARDEN THEATRE.

This Fete, the object of which is to derive from the source of amusement further means for promoting the independence of the Spanish Nation, is to take place on Friday, the 4th instant; and is to be conducted on the grandest scale of magnificence. The Stage and Pit are to be united; the former will present a scene of unexampled brilliancy, which it is hardly necessary to mention, from the well known taste and liberality of the Proprietors of this Establishment, who on this occasion have come forward with their usual spirit. The Theatre will also be superbly illuminated; and filled as it will be by the nobility, beauty, and fashion of the metropolis, will present a *coup d'œil*, as imposing as splendid; and from the intense interest which the cause excites, we may with safety assert, that this *Fete* will be ranked among the *most magnificent ever witnessed in any country.*—It has been rumoured that this celebration on behalf of Spanish liberty is opposed by the influence of certain Foreign Ambassadors; but what will that avail against the animated and generous feeling of the British Public, who will, notwithstanding, blend with their enjoyments the memory of those *rights* that give to society the *genuine* tone of happiness.

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Theatre Royal English Opera House.

This Evening, (2nd time) a new Musical Drama, in 2 acts called,

The Swing Bridge.

The new Music composed by Mr. REEVE.
Baron of Uckfeld, Mr. T. P. COOKE,
Count D'Holberg, (Uncle of Helga and Selina, and Father of Henri) Mr. ROWBOTHAM,
Henri D'Holberg (Ensign in the Baron's Regiment) Mr BROADHURST
Seward, (a relative of the Baron) Mr BAKER,
Radulf, (Master of the Forge, an old Adjutant) Mr BARTLEY,
Cassimer Blumm, (an Ensign in the Regiment) Mr KEELEY,
Peasant, Mr MINTON, Servant, Mr SHAW,
Helga, (the Baroness) Miss CARR,
Selina, (her Sister) Miss POVEY.

A DANCE, Incidental to the Piece.

After with, (28th time) the last new Musical Farce, in 2 acts, called

Gretna Green.

The Music composed, by Mr REEVE.
Lord Lovewell, (in love with Emily) Mr PEARMAN,
Mr Tomkins, (Guardian to Emily) Mr W. BENNETT,
Mr Jenkins, (a runaway Gentlemen, out of place) Mr WRENCH.
Larder, (Inn-keeper at Gretna Green) Mr POWER,
Waiters, Postillions. Mess. Mears, Lodge, Smith, Povey,
Emily, (in love with Lord Lovewell) [1st time] Miss POVEY,
Betty Finikin, (a runaway Maid, out of place) Miss KELLY,
(Being her 2nd appearance in London this Year)

To conclude with the Musical Entertainmont of

The Poor Soldier.

Captain Fitzroy, Mr J. BLAND, Dermot, Mr BROADHURST,
Patrick, Miss GRENVILLE, (*From the Bristol Theatre, who is engaged for a few Nights—Her 2nd appearance on this Stage.*)
Bagatelle, Mr T. P. COOKE,
Darby, Mr W. CHAPMAN, (*From the Theatre Royal Brighton, his 2nd appearance on this Stage*)
Father Luke, Mr J. KNIGHT, Boy, Miss R. BODEN,
Norah, Miss HOLDAWAY, Kathleen, Miss POVEY.

To-morrow, The Swing Bridge, with Gretna Green, and The Turnpike Gate, Crack, (first time) Mr W. CHAPMAN.

XUM

Theatre Royal, Hay-Market.

This Evening the Comedy of

Pigeons and Crows.

Sir Peter Pigwiggin, Mr LISTON,
Capt. Pigwiggin, Mr VINING,
Mr. Muz, Mr WILLIAMS, Tom, Mr COVENEY
Mr. Wadd, Mr HAMMOND,
Mr Blondeau, Mr WEST, Bailiff, Mr EBSWORTH
Patrick O'Rorogoroo, Mr LEE,
Mrs. Harvey, Mrs JONES,
Louisa, Mrs. CHATTERLEY,
Mary, Mrs C. JONES.

After which, the new Farce of

LOVE LETTERS.

Valcour, Mr COVENEY,
La Fleur, Mr JOHNSON, Robert, Mr TAYLEURE,
Friponez, Mr. W. WEST,
Emily, Miss WOOD, Lisette, Madame VESTRIS,

To conclude with the Musical Farce of

Mrs. SMITH!

Or, The Wife and The Widow.

The Principal Characters by

Mr VINING, Mr WILLIAMS,
Mr LISTON,
Mrs CHATTERLEY, Miss BOYCE,
Mrs COVENEY, Miss WOOD.

To-morrow, Seeing is Believing, The Way to Keep Him, and Love Laughs at Locksmiths.